

*Gene Ericson  
700 Melody Lane  
Edmonds, WA 98020*

January 28, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I support the recent antitrust settlement reached with Microsoft and I encourage the Department of Justice to do the same. Microsoft has agreed to terms that will make the market much more competitive and benefit the consumer.

Microsoft has agreed to make it easier for competitors to remove Microsoft's products from Windows OS and to install competing products. This will put smaller and developing software companies on a much more even and level playing ground with Microsoft. Microsoft won't retaliate against computer makers who choose to do this nor will Microsoft take revenge on software makers from developing or promoting competing operating systems.

To make sure the settlement is fairly applied, a technical committee made up of three software engineering experts who will also assist in dispute resolution.

I firmly believe this will make the OS market more competitive. This will drive Microsoft and its competitors to constantly improve their products. In the end, the consumer will ultimately be the winner.

Sincerely,



Gene Ericson